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PRAGUE ROME SAIGON SOFIA TEHRAN TEL AVIV
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TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 19

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

1. U.S. PRAVDA AND RED STAR CARRY A TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON
ON PRESIDENT FORDS'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN SOUTH BEND. TASS
STRESSES HIS SUPPORT FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO CAMBODIA AND HIS
REMARKS NOTING THAT THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE REEXAMINING
THEIR TIES WITH THE U.S. TASS ALSO CITES THE PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED
COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE VALIDITY OF CHARGES OF CIA ASSASSINATION
PLOTS BUT OMITTS HIS PLEDGE THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT
CONDONE SUCH ACTIVITIES. RED STAR, IN A TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON,
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REPORTS THE PROPOSED PENTAGON BUDGET OF 4.2 BILLION DOLLARS FOR

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, OF WHICH 500 MILLION WAS EARMARKED FOR OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES. PRAVDA CARRIES EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM ITALIAN CP CHIEF BERLINGUER'S SPEECH TO THE PARTY CONGRESS IN ROME. REPORT INCLUDES BERLINGUER'S SHARP ATTACK ON "AMERICAN LEADERS" FOR ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE ARABS FROM EACH OTHER AND FOR ENGAGING IN MILITARY ADVENTURES. HE ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER THAT NO BROAD SCHEME OF WORLD COOPERATION WOULD FUNCTION WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION.

2. CAMBODIA-VIETNAM. PRAVDA AND RED STAR CARRY A TASS REPORT FROM BANGKOK ON PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET'S DIFFICULTIES IN FORMING A NEW CABINET IN CAMBODIA, THE CONTINUING PUSH ON PHNOM PENH BY THE "PATRIOTS" AND THE EVACUATION OF WESTERN CITIZENS FROM THE CITY. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES TWO TASS ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING THE PENTAGON'S REPLY TO SENATOR SYMINGTON'S CHARGE ON U.S. AIR ACTIVITIES OVER CAMBODIA IN SUPPORT OF THE GKR FORCES, AND ON THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND OPPOSING SUPPLEMENTARY AID. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY ALEKSANDER SERBIN SHARPLY ATTACKS THE U.S. AND THE THIEU REGIME ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST APPEARANCE IN SAIGON OF U.S. WARSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF THE "DIRTY" COLONIAL WAR. EVER SINCE, SAYS SERBIN, THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST "OVERSEAS AGGRESSION." HE ASSERTS THAT THE PRG AND DRV HAVE ABIDED BY THE 1973 PARIS AGREEMENT, BUT THAT THIEU HAS NOT AND CONCLUDES THAT THE PATRIOTIC FORCES SEEK PEACE AND THE LIBERATION OF THEIR LAND. RED STAR CARRIES A TASS REPORT FROM TOKYO ALLEGING THAT AMERICAN MILITARY TECHNICIANS ARE STILL IN SOUTH VIETNAM, AS REVEALED BY STORY THAT A BOMB AT TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE REPORTEDLY INJURED EIGHT OF THEM.

3. BREZHNEV'S SPEECH. ALL MAJOR DAILIES CARRY FULL TEXT OF BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS TO HUNGARIAN PARTY CONGRESS (SEPTTEL).

4. VISITS. PRESS AGAIN GIVES HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE VISIT OF GAMBIA PRESIDENT JAWARA. TASS REPORT IN PRAVDA ANNOUNCED CONCLUSION OF SOVIET-GAMBIA TALKS MARCH 18 AND SIGNING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE (NOT YET PUBLISHED) AND FISHERIES AGREEMENT. TEXTS OF TOASTS BY KOSYGIN AND JAWARA ARE ALSO PUBLISHED.

PRAVDA FRONT-PAGES NOTICE THAT FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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ARRIVE IN MOSCOW MARCH 19.

5. MIDDLE EAST. ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION AND THE SECRETARY'S TRAVELS RECEIVE NO NOTICE. PRAVDA CARRIES BRIEF ITEM REPORTING THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF JORDAN'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. IZVESTIYA REPORTS THAT IRAQ-IRAN TALKS IN TEHRAN HAVE TAKEN FIRST STEPS TOWARD SETTLING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. STORY ALSO REPLAYS BEIRUT PRESS ALLEGATION THAT

AMERICAN PRESS HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SHAH'S AGREEMENT WITH SADDAN HUSEIN BECAUSE THE U.S. SEES IRAQ-IRAN AGREEMENT AS A THREAT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

6. PORTUGAL. MAJOR DAILIES CARRY LISBON DATELINED TASS ARTICLE REPORTING PRESIDENT GOMES' MARCH 18 ADDRESS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO TASS, GOMES CHARACTERIZED THE COUNCIL AS THE "MOTOR OF THE REVOLUTION" AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WILL BE CREATED SHORTLY. TASS ALSO NOTES A STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE MARCH 11 COUP THAT IT HAS BEGUN WORK AND WILL DEVOTE EVERY EFFORT TO MEETING ITS ASSIGNMENT "TO EXPOSE THE ROOTS OF THE MARCH 11 EVENTS"
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